UNITED
NATIONS

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General Assembly
Security Council

Distr.
GENERAL

A/50/321
S/1995/638
1 August 1995

ORIGINAL: ENGLISH

GENERAL ASSEMBLY
Fiftieth session
Item 28 of the provisional agenda*
THE SITUATION IN BOSNIA AND
HERZEGOVINA

SECURITY COUNCIL
Fiftieth year

Letter dated 1 August 1995 from the Chargé d'affaires a.i.
of the Permanent Mission of Bosnia and Herzegovina to the
United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

I have the honour to present to you the attached letter dated 1 August 1995 from H.E. Mr. Haris Silajdžić, Prime Minister of the Republic of Bosnia and Herzegovina, addressed to you.

May I ask for your kind assistance in circulating this letter as a document of the General Assembly under item 28 of the provisional agenda, and of the Security Council.

(Signed) Ivan Z. MISIC
Chargé d'affaires a.i.

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Annex

Letter dated 1 August 1995 from the Prime Minister of the Republic of Bosnia and Herzegovina addressed to the Secretary-General

We believe that you are well aware of the following:

1. In the area of Žepa, there remain 2,865 civilians who have not been evacuated, who have no contact with anybody in the outside world and who have not been supplied with food for more than 30 days. They are hiding in woods and caves. The United Nations Protection Force (UNPROFOR), which has a presence in the area of Žepa, has not been able either to establish contact with them or to send patrols into the area. The Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) and the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) have no presence there at all.

2. In Bihać, people have been dying of starvation for a long time. With the new offensive of the Serb aggressor forces from the so-called Serb Republic of Krajina and from the temporarily occupied territories of the Republic of Bosnia and Herzegovina, a new wave of more than 10,000 displaced persons has been created, which threatens to make the humanitarian situation absolutely catastrophic.

3. Humanitarian catastrophe is looming large in Sarajevo. In the past three months UNHCR delivered a total of 7,500 tons of food for 300,000 inhabitants, which represents less than 1 kilogram of food per person per month. All food stocks have been exhausted. UNPROFOR and UNHCR had initiated aid deliveries through the Mount Igman road, the only route by which it remains possible to bring the food in without interference of the Serb aggressor forces, but such operations were suspended by the decision made in Zagreb.

At the meeting held on 31 July 1995, the highest officials of UNPROFOR informed us that the political decision they had received from Zagreb required them to use roads controlled by Serbs to the maximum possible extent and to cease aid deliveries for Sarajevo by way of the Igman road. For us, it means that UNPROFOR and UNHCR received orders to implement faithfully the siege of Sarajevo as dictated by Serbs. We were also told that humanitarian deliveries across Mount Igman would resume as soon as such a political decision is made within the United Nations.

In the context of the above, our demands are as follows:

1. UNPROFOR must, without delay, initiate patrolling in the area of Žepa controlled by the Army of the Republic of Bosnia and Herzegovina, establish contacts with the inhabitants and the civilian authorities in this region and resume safe evacuation of the civilian population until the entire population is "humanely relocated" as begun by UNPROFOR in cooperation with the international community and the Serb aggressor forces. Also, we demand immediate delivery of humanitarian aid to Žepa by land convoys or by means of air drop.

2. Deliveries of humanitarian aid for Bihać, either by land convoys or by air drop, must resume immediately, and UNHCR should assume the duty to provide accommodation for new displaced persons. UNPROFOR is bound, in cooperation with the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO), to put a stop to offensives against the civilian population in the "safe area" of Bihać and to relieve blocked UNPROFOR units in order for them to resume the mission they had been brought there for.

3. United Nations structures must make the political decision to deliver humanitarian aid for Sarajevo through the Igman route whenever it is not possible by roads under the control of the Serb aggressor forces, and the Rapid Reaction Force should be used to protect the convoys.

Our Government will reconsider all relations with UNPROFOR unless it finally secures humanitarian deliveries by the Tarčin-Igman-Hrasnica-Dobrinja route and if United Nations Peace Forces (UNPF) headquarters in Zagreb continues to prevent UNPROFOR and UNHCR in Sarajevo from undertaking this operation.

We are profoundly convinced that the United Nations, with the assistance of regional political and military organizations, has both the ability and the obligation to meet these demands. For us, this remains a question of the willingness, intentions and decisions of yourself and your associates, and not in the least one of the abilities and capabilities of those in charge of implementation.

(Signed) Haris SILAJDŽIĆ
Prime Minister